

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 INR-09 CIAE-00 RSC-01

RSR-01 /050 W

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R 090916 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO RUEHVUXSECSTATE WASHDC 8035

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1517

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TW, CH

SUBJECT: ROC INFORMATION POLICY ON MAINLAND AFFAIRS

REF: TAIPEI 1480

1. ACCORDING CNA RDMORT, KMT STANDING COMMITTEE MARCH 7 APPROVED PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING EDUCATION OF MAINLAND AFFAIRS AND DR. SUN'S IDEOLOGY. WHILE PROGRAM ENVISAGES INCREASED COVERAGE OF MAINLAND AFFAIRS BY MASS MEDIA, IT IS EVIDENT THAT ITS PRIMARY TARGET IS COLLEGE STUDENTS. THESE WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE COMPULSORY COURSES ON MAINLAND AFFAIRS, TREATED TO INCREASED LECTURES, FORUMS AND EXHIBITS ON SUBJECT AND PROVIDED WITH HEAVIER CONCENTRATION ON MODERN CHINESE HISTORY. CNA DESCRIBED PROGRAM AS DESIGNED " TO MEET DEMANDS OF CURRENT REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION... REBUKE COMMUNIST HETERODOX THEORIES... EXPOSE COMMUNIST CRIMES" AND SMASH G" TREACHEROUS COMMUNIST UNITED FRONT PLOT." IT PROVIDED NO DETAILS ON ADMINISTRATION AND TIMING OF PROGRAM. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO GIO DIRECTOR FRED CHIEN PROGRAM IS MOTIVATED BY ROC CONCERN OVER VULNERABILITIES OF ITS COLLEGE STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ABROAD, TO PRC PROPAGANDA STEMMING FROM THEIR IGNORANCE OR DISTORTED VIEW OF MAINLAND CONDITIONS ( REFTEL). IT APPEARS TO REPRESENT A MODEST VICTORY FOR MODERATES AND PRAGMATISTS WITHIN GOVERNMENT WHO REALIZE THAT CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE MORE SOPHISTICATED PROPAGANDA.

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GANDA APPROACH TO MAINLAND. ( ACCORDING TO KUAN YUNG, HEAD OF NORTH AMERICA DEPARTMENT, MOFA, FRED CHIEN WAS

STRENOUS PROPONENT OF NEW APPROACH). MAGNITUDE OF VICTORY REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THOUGH PARTIALLY DESIGNED TO PLACATE HARDLINERS AND AVOID CONFUSING PUBLIC, CNA'S UNPROMISING DESCRIPTION OF GOALS OF PROGRAM REFLECTS DEEPLY INGRAINED FEAR AND CAUTION WHICH CHARACTERIZES APPROACH HERE TO PRC AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO IMPORTANTLY LIMIT OBJECTIVITY ON SUBJECT. MOREOVER, CONSERVATIVE STRONGHOLDS WITHIN BUREAUCRACY SUCH AS SECURITY SERVICES ARE LIKELY TO BE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CONTEMPLATED PROGRAM.  
MCCONAUGHY

NOTE BY OC/ T: DISTRIBUTION PER S/ S-O, MR. EALUM.

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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